

NPL Factsheets for Illinois:

KERR-MCGEE (SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT)

EPA REGION 5

DuPage County
West Chicago

EPA ID# ILD980824031 - Last Update: May 2002 **14th Congressional District**

Site Description

The Kerr-McGee Sewage Treatment Plant site is one of four National Priorities List (NPL) sites in the West Chicago area contaminated by a Kerr-McGee facility. This site, located in West Chicago, Illinois, covers approximately 23 acres. The site is contaminated with radioactive wastes which originated from a nearby facility, originally operated by the Lindsay Light and Chemical Company, but subsequently operated by the Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation and known as the Kerr-McGee Rare Earths Facility. The facility, which operated from 1931 until its closure in 1973, extracted radioactive thorium and other radioactive and non-radioactive elements from monazite and other ores, and manufactured gaslight mantles, mesothorium, and hydrofluoric acid. The site became contaminated when the waste materials from these operations, known as thorium mill tailings, were used as fill or disposed in a historical land filled area on the facility. The site is directly adjacent to the West Branch of the DuPage River and there is evidence that the river may have been impacted. Approximately 15,000 people live within 3 miles of the site.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL Listing History: Proposed Date: 10/15/84
Final Date: 08/30/90

Threats and Contaminants

Soil and sediment at the site contains low level radioactive contamination. People who are exposed to radioactive-contaminated soil or sediment may suffer adverse health effects.

Cleanup Progress

United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the site. A cleanup decision has not yet been made, and cleanup actions have not yet begun. In accordance with a private agreement signed between Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation and the city of West Chicago [the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) at this site], U.S. EPA anticipates that Kerr-McGee and the City of West Chicago will submit a cleanup proposal for this site in 2002. Upon submittal, U.S. EPA will evaluate the proposal to see whether it is acceptable and consistent with the National Contingency Plan (NCP). If acceptable, cleanup at the site could begin as early as late 2002. A Record of Decision (ROD) is currently planned after the cleanup proposal has been implemented.

Contacts

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